

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

Claims 1-32 (canceled).

33. (new) A method for placing an intervertebral prosthesis between two adjacent lumbar vertebrae, wherein said two adjacent lumbar vertebrae define an inter-laminar region between laminar arches of said adjacent lumbar vertebrae, comprising the steps of:

providing an elastic body, said elastic body made of a material which is flexible in all directions, said elastic body adapted to be arranged in said inter-laminar region, and

providing a securing means on said elastic body, said securing means adapted for securing the elastic body to said adjacent lumbar vertebrae, wherein said securing means comprises an engaging means, said engaging means adapted for engaging said vertebrae between said laminar arches,

arranging said elastic body in said inter-laminar region, and

securing said elastic body to the adjacent lumbar vertebrae by engaging said engaging means between the laminar arches.

34. (new) The method according to Claim 33, wherein said elastic body has two opposite ends, and said securing means comprises an anchoring plate provided for each end of the elastic body, said anchoring plates adapted for being anchored to a corresponding laminar arch of lumbar vertebrae, said method providing the step of anchoring one said anchoring plate to a corresponding laminar arch.

35. (new) The method according to Claim 34, wherein each said anchoring plate is substantially rigid.

36. (new) The method according to Claim 34, wherein each said anchoring plate has a plurality of shaped projections,

said shaped projections adapted for co-acting with a corresponding laminar arch of adjacent lumbar vertebrae, said method providing the further step of causing said shaped projections to coact with a corresponding laminar arch.

37. (new) The method according to Claim 35, wherein each said anchoring plates comprise three said shaped projections, and wherein said prosthesis is arranged between the laminar arches such that said shaped projections extend towards said laminar arches.

38. (new) The method according to Claim 35, wherein said anchoring plates include a median said shaped projection, said median shaped projection adapted for insertion into a spinal foramen of a vertebra, and said anchoring plates further include two laterally spaced apart lateral said shaped projections, said lateral shaped projections adapted for insertion in use in contact with corresponding outer surfaces of laminar arch of lumbar vertebrae, and wherein said prosthesis is arranged between the laminar arches such that said median projection is inserted into the spinal foramen of the vertebra and said lateral projections contact respective outer surfaces of the laminar arches.

39. (new) The method according to Claim 38, wherein each said median shaped projection has a thickness adapted for insertion of said median projection into spinal foramen of the vertebra without compressing the spinal cord and wherein said prosthesis is arranged between the laminar arches such that said median shaped projection is inserted into the spinal foramen without compressing the spinal cord.

40. (new) The method according to Claim 33, additionally comprising a connection means connecting said securing means to said elastic body.

42. (new) The method according to Claim 40, wherein said connection means include ligatures, said anchoring plate

comprises first holes and said elastic body comprises second holes, said first holes and said second holes in line with each other, with said ligatures passing through said first holes and said second holes.

42. (new) The method according to Claim 33, wherein said anchoring plates each have a respective surface groove, each said surface groove adapted for insertion in use of a corresponding tip of a divaricator forceps, said method comprising the further step of inserting a tip of a divaricator forceps into each said surface groove.

43. (new) The method according to Claim 42, wherein said surface grooves in said anchoring plates are oriented parallel to each other.

44. (new) The method according to Claim 33, wherein the prosthesis further comprises an auxiliary ligament, said method comprising the further step of fixing said ligament to spinous processes of adjacent lumbar vertebrae.

45. (new) The method according to Claim 44, wherein each said anchoring plate includes engaging means for engaging with said auxiliary ligament.

46. (new) The method according to Claim 45, wherein said engaging means includes at least one lateral hook for each said plate.